

CORNPLANTER STATE FOREST DISTRICT

2023 ACTIVITY PLAN

The mission of DCNR Bureau of Forestry is to conserve the long-term health, viability and productivity of the Commonwealth's forest and to conserve native wild plants. One of the ways the bureau carries out this mission is through the [State Forest Resource Management Plan](#) (SFRMP), a document that guides the management of the 2.2 million-acre state forest system. The SFRMP is updated approximately every 5 years and includes an extensive public engagement process.

One of the policies in the bureau's strategic plan ([Penn's Woods: Sustaining Our Forests](#)) includes, "Public participation will be an integral part of the management of state forest lands." The purpose of this Activity Plan is to communicate to the public about upcoming management activities, projects, and events that will be conducted to implement the SFRMP on The Cornplanter State Forest. This document will be revised at the start and middle of each calendar year to provide sufficient time for public review, questions, and feedback. The bureau is committed to considering the views and perspectives of the public and stakeholders and strives to accommodate public interests in planning management activities and decision making. We encourage comments or questions regarding planned or proposed activities be directed to the state forest district conducting the activity.

For questions, comments, or more information about this plan, please contact:

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RECREATION

- **Ingraham Tract Trail System Improvements** – Install two new culverts and replace worn out timbers on elevated walkways.
- **Anders Run Trail System Improvements** – Replace rusted culvert, rebuild one elevated walkway, stabilize elevated walkways, and improve trail system.
- **Hunter Run Trail System Improvements** – Reconstruct elevated walkways and improve trail system as needed.

Organized Events

- Forest Field Day (May 2023 – Erie County, exact location TBD) – Please check the district webpage or call the district office for updated information.
- Forest Field Day (September 2023 – Venango County, exact location TBD) – Please check the district webpage or call the district office for updated information.

STATE FOREST/TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Timber Sales

Marked and sold, active

- **Marfink Sale** – This 72-acre sale, located in the eastern section of the Hunter Run tract near McCaferdy Run, received an herbicide treatment in 2016 to substantially reduce the number of undesirable stems competing with hardwood seedlings. This stand is receiving a first stage shelterwood harvest to remove small pole-sized and genetically inferior trees to allow more sunlight to penetrate to the forest floor to promote growth of the new seedlings. The buyer is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ complete with the sale and has been granted an extension. The completion date for this sale is Spring 2023.

Marked but not yet sold

- None at this time

Proposed (not marked yet)

- None at this time

Regeneration projects

- White pine seedlings and pitch pine seedlings will be planted at Hunter Run
- White pine seedlings and red spruce seedlings will be planted at the Ingraham tracts

- Chestnut seedlings may be planted on the Hunter Run tract

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- The district will continue to participate in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) to help balance the deer herd at the Hunter Run Tract.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Hunter Run Headquarters Access – Complete road access project at headquarters building and finish weathering office extension.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- There are no prescribed fire activities planned for 2023 on the Cornplanter State Forest.

WILDLAND FIRE

- The Cornplanter Forest District will be actively engaged in wildfire detection and suppression.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- **Treatment of Ash Trees** – Ash trees on state forest lands throughout the district will be treated with approved chemicals and methods to provide resistance against the destructive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), in late spring and early Summer of 2023.
- **Spot treatment of Invasive Plant Species** – During summer/early fall the district will conduct herbicide spot treatments for non-native, invasive plant species on state forest lands. Common species treated include: multi-flora rose, Japanese barberry, phragmites and Japanese knotweed. Glyphosate-based herbicides will be utilized for these spot treatments.
- **Treatment of Hemlock Trees** – Plans are being finalized to treat hemlock trees at the Anders Run Natural Area in Fall 2023. Approved chemicals and methods will be used to provide resistance against the destructive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA).

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Oil, Gas and Mineral (OGM) Monitoring** – Continue to monitor new oil and gas activity on severed rights tracts of the Cornplanter State Forest and minimize surface disturbance where possible.
- **Legacy Oil Well Plugging, Infrastructure Removal and Surface Rehabilitation** – The district has been working with the Bureau of Forestry’s Minerals Division and the Department of Environmental Protection on implementation of a capital well plugging contract. Twelve wells will be included in phase two of the project. Bidding for phase two is expected to occur late winter/early spring 2023 and activity may begin in the summer of 2023.
- No shale/stone pits or coal/hard mineral projects are planned for 2023 on the Cornplanter State Forest.

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- There are no tower or right-of-way projects planned for 2023 on the Cornplanter State Forest.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Plans for public engagement in 2023 are still being developed, please check the district webpage or call the District Office for updated information.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- The district is working with the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) on potential project areas under the Good Neighbor Authority.

RESEARCH

- The U.S.F.S. Northern Research Station is engaged in a fern and herbicide study on the Cornplanter State Forest to determine the effects of broadcast herbicide application for fern control on oak and other desirable seedlings. This is part of a multi-district study being led by Todd Ristau.
- The district is cooperating with MOTUS to track migratory species to better understand their movements and habits.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Ash Tree Treatments – district staff treated approximately 30 trees on State Forest lands with approved chemicals to prevent mortality due to the emerald ash borer insect.
- District staff and the PA Outdoor Crew spot-treated approximately 96 acres of state forest lands to reduce the occurrence of invasive plant species.
- District staff worked with the Bureau of Forestry's Forest Health Division to spray for *Lymantria Dispar* (spongy moth) insects on the Allegheny National Forest and Chapman State Park.
- District staff completed landscape examinations on all state forest lands throughout the District.
- District staff and a PA Outdoor Crew improved 2 acres of state forest lands at Hunter Run to better support wildlife. Brush piles were constructed, trees were planted, and early succession habitat was created.
- District staff and a PA Outdoor Crew conducted a forest stand improvement (FSI) treatment on approximately 19 acres at Hunter Run.
- District staff and a PA Outdoor Crew conducted a crop tree release treatment on approximately 6 acres at Hunter Run.
- District staff completed the administration of a 26-acre timber sale at the Townville tract.
- District staff, with the assistance of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Bureau of Facility Design and Construction (FD&C) and OGM central office staff, oversaw the completion of Phase one of the abandoned well-plugging project at Hunter Run.